

the Pavement

Issue 7

The paper for The Homeless (London Edition)

Free

Street numbers rise

Simon Community street count reveals higher numbers sleeping rough

An independent street count of London's homeless has recorded a 50% increase in the number of people sleeping rough, despite government figures claiming that homelessness is in decline. The Simon Community's bi-annual count found 345 sleeping rough in the capital, compared to 226 for the same period last year. Figures from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the government office charged with homeless policy, put the number of rough sleepers at 191 in March.

Ian Lock, director of The

Simon Community, said that its street count gives an accurate account of rough sleeping in the capital. "We know where to go and are close to what's happening on the street," he said.

He added that the time in which the count is conducted – between midnight and 4am – means that people are bedded down for the night. The count took place in the early hours of Saturday 29th October, when 22 teams, made up of volunteers and friends of The Simon Community, counted the number of rough sleepers across the boroughs of Camden, Southwark, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Tower Hamlets, The City of London and Westminster.

On the same evening the

charity contacted 87 hostels in the areas, and found that, of 4160 beds for homeless people, only 55 were available.

Lock is calling for more joined-up thinking in provision for the homeless in London. "Even if all the 345

rough sleepers wanted a bed indoors for the night, there are not enough beds for them to go to," he said.

Claiming that there were not enough quality hostel beds...

Continued on page 3

It's a dog's life



Photographer Isabel Hutchison

'Man's best friend' is not always welcome in hostels

Those homeless who have pets may struggle to find a place to live. So much so that the Dogs Trust, alongside Broadway, the Greater London Authority and St Mungo's are alarmed by the lack of permanent accommodation available for rough sleepers and 'their best friends'.

The Dogs Trust say this is a particular problem for pet friendly referral agencies in London who have people who need to find move-on accommodation. To reverse the situation, the Dogs Trust's

Hope Project is currently updating its 'Welcoming Dogs' pack, which advises projects on accepting clients with dogs.

To gain insight for the new pack, the charity is sending out a survey to accommodation projects. "We conducted a similar survey in 2002 before we produced the original 'Welcoming Dogs' pack, and hence we are keen to discover if attitudes to homeless dog owners have changed in this time," said Chris Ferris, Hope Project Coordinator. "We are also keen to make sure that the new pack addresses all the issues relating to accepting clients and their dogs which ...

Continued page 2



"Okay - it's true - in my youth I experimented with the idea of becoming Leader of the Conservative Party"

News

Ghetto culture

A row is raging over comments that hostels are "ghettos of desperation"

A "ghetto" is generally defined as "a section of a city occupied by a minority group who live there especially because of social, economic, or legal pressure," but it would now appear that the stigma attached to this term is also being applied to hostels. "Levels of drug abuse and dealing, alcoholism and violence are increasing and it is time that something should be done about it," said Philip Burke, a trustee of the Simon Community.

In a recent article in *Inside Housing*, Burke attacked the state of many of London's institutions, which he says "have become ghettos

of substance abuse and desperation", where residents are preyed upon by drug pushers on a nightly basis; people with drug addictions are treated in the same way as those with mental health problems; the few staff are under-trained and support is inadequate.

These comments have been condemned by Charles Fraser, chief executive of St Mungo's and member of the Pan-London Providers Group, who said these comments were "rubbish" and "from the vantage point of ignorance."

This row has drawn battle lines between those of the view that there are many corporate figures benefiting financially from hostels and homeless charities in London, and the views of some of the larger providers.

"By not providing suitable facilities, staff and training, money provided to the charities is being redirected from where it is needed most and," Burke said, "it is time that the taxpayers and supporters of the charities are reassured that their money is meeting its aim."

Amber Place, from Homeless Link, stated that they are "committed to ensuring hostel staff are fully trained" and are aiming to employ "dedicated staff" to monitor training and improvement.

But Burke goes further in his views stating that in order to avoid corporate players benefiting from hostels and charities he feels it is time to employ an independent governing body to oversee the management of hostels within the capital. "If the clients are to benefit, staff must have

ongoing training and hostels need to be adequately staffed", he said.

The problem with this is funding. The Pan-London Providers Group, created by the chief executives of the seven largest homeless charities in London, recently suggested reducing the number of beds in each hostel to improve quality, but with no obvious plan to increase the number of hostels in return.

This row has continue to run, with claim and counter claim appearing in the letter pages of *Inside Housing*, but whilst, in Burke's words, "there are people at the corporate levels with egos that will at best cover the Thames Gateway", it's certainly far from over.

'RN'

It's a dog's life

Continued from front page

...are currently relevant to homelessness services and projects."

The results of the survey will not be available externally, but will be used by Dogs Trust to ensure that the new information pack is up-to-date and covers as many issues as possible. The charity says that it is extremely important that housing associations and other permanent housing providers begin to understand the relationship which exists between people and their pets.

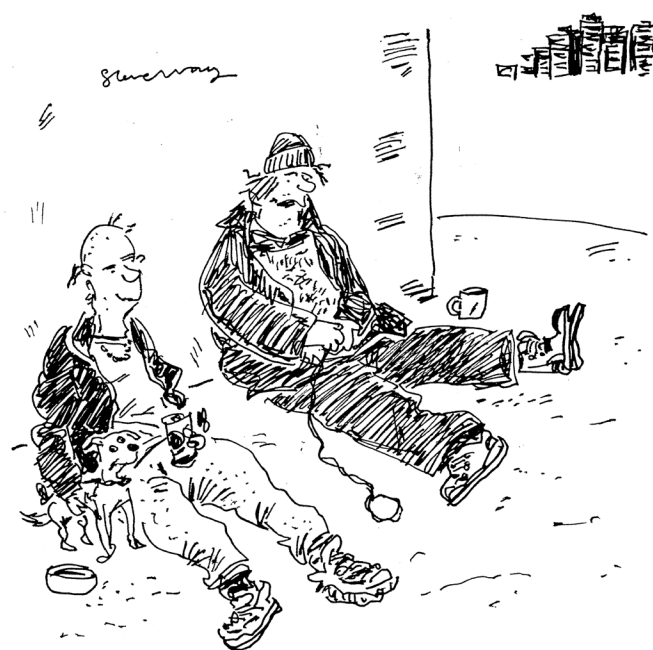
Clare Kivelham, Dogs Trust Outreach project manager,

said that homeless owners develop "an especially close bond with their pet because of their situation – the stability, routine, love, responsibility and companionship brought about from looking after a pet."

The 'Welcoming Dogs' pack of 2002 showed a shocking 86% of hostels refused to allow clients with their dogs.

Kelly Murphy, of Broadway, is very concerned that many people being referred who have pets are waiting for long periods of time, or in some cases are unable, to find suitable permanent accommodation.

'Ana'



"Must say my cat's a bit of a disappointment..."

News

Street numbers rise

Continued from the front page

...in the capital and insufficient move-on accommodation, Lock added that although support for rough sleepers who take up tenancies has improved, the government must re-introduce coordination across the boroughs, relax the rules on local connection criteria, enable those in hostels to access move-on

accommodation and develop appropriate facilities for homeless people ineligible for benefits.

The next government street count takes place on 23rd November, but, importantly, before midnight. The Simon Community is planning to send out five or six teams on the same night after midnight, to compare government and independent figures more

accurately.

• The government's Homelessness Innovation Fund has awarded a grant worth £185,000 to Homeless Link to pilot a move-on plan. The pilot aims at unblocking hostel beds for homeless people by bringing hostel providers and local authorities together to increase the range of housing options for move-on residents. Jenny Edwards,

chief executive of Homeless Link, said: "This grant is a clear indication of the government's commitment to resolving this issue. The project is an important new element in our ongoing work to help the Government meet its target of halving the numbers in temporary accommodation by 2010."

'Hector'

Time gentlemen, please!

Super strength drink targeted by TRB

Access to super strength lagers should be restricted to protect street drinkers, according to a new campaign launched by Thames Reach Broadway (TRB).

A single can of 9% super strength lager contains four and a half units of alcohol, which exceeds the government's daily recommended safe alcohol limit - Between three and four units for men and two to three units for women. With this in mind, TRB propose that restrictions be placed on such drinks, making them harder to obtain and therefore limiting the health risk they pose, especially to street drinkers.

The organisation surveyed 4,000 people using their services in 2004, and found that 43% had a recorded alcohol problem and this, combined with the fact that the number of alcohol related deaths has increased by nearly a fifth in the last four years, has led to the decision that action needs to be taken to ensure the risks posed by alcohol are

minimized.

To achieve this, they are urging the government to introduce measures to reduce how cheaply and easily available such drinks are. Included in their proposals are a call for

a new 6% ceiling on the level of alcohol for canned and bottled super strength lagers and ciders. They also call for an increase in tax on the super strength lagers, a system which has already proved successful in Ireland. TRB have also

proposed the introduction of health warnings, similar to those seen on cigarette packets, informing drinkers of the dangers these drinks pose.

A statement by TRB's Chief Executive, Jeremy Swain, made it clear the motivation for the campaign was purely to protect the health and lives of drinkers, saying "Our campaign is not a moralistic one. Our intention is simply to highlight the impact of the super strength lager phenomenon."

However, not everyone is certain about how successful the campaign will be. 'John', a hostel resident in South London, with a history of alcohol abuse, doubted how much of an impact such changes in the law would have. He told us, "people will still drink. When people want to get drunk, they'll find a way somehow." However, TRB are positive that taking steps to lessen the impact of high strength lagers will help protect not only current drinkers, but help prevent a new generation suffering from the adverse effects of alcohol.

'Vanessa'

Two inebriated gentlemen were recently overheard by 'Bez' on a tube near Warren Street, who recorded the conversation:

'There are always delays on the Northern line, if it ain't bloody strikes it's some nutter throwing themselves under a tube.'

'Grunt' came the reply.

'I knew this mether once, he decided to jump down onto the tracks at Angel talking and waving to the passengers on the platform, silly bastard', he recalled.

'Mether?' asked his companion.

'Yeah, methers. You know, when he was 'ard up he used to drink methylated spirit, you know, meths.'

'Oh.'

'Pissed out his brains he was, ended up under that train.'

'Under the second carriage as it happens. They had to jack it up to get him out. He was still alive at that point, died on the platform', he laughed maniacally.

'Silly bastard.'

'Yeah, I knew him - there were others n'all, I caught 'em drinking perfume once. Do you know how much alcohol there is in perfume?'

'Nah.'

'Twentyfive percent! Twentyfive - bloody - percent!'

'Must be disgusting.'

'Yeah, but don't half make your breath smell nice!'

News

Parks and gardens cleared

Embankment bye-laws are enforced

Last week saw the start of a two week after-dark operation to clear the parks and gardens on Embankment, an area with a long history of rough sleeper occupation. Outreach workers and representatives of Westminster City Council spread warnings about the imminent proceedings throughout the resident community weeks in advance, said a spokesperson for the Police's Safer Streets Homeless Unit.

Sergeant Julie Hawton from Safer Streets Homeless Unit, based at Charring Cross Police Station, told *The Pavement* of the reasons behind this disruptive procedure. "These people [bedding down in the parks] are breaking the law; all public parks and gardens are governed by bye-laws and the laws are there for a reason". A spokeswoman for Westminster confirmed that this move was not another move against a 'hot-spot,' but rather enforcing of bye-laws for the parks and gardens.

It emerged that the overriding reasons for shifting the homeless out of the parks and gardens at Embankment were largely issues of health and safety: "Firstly, climbing over the gates at night results in accidents," Hawton said. "Only last week a young chap impaled himself on the railings while trying to illegally enter the park". An ambulance was called to the scene and a brief spell of hospitalisation followed. And secondly, "there is nowhere to run [in a park] - if an attacker decides to climb the gates and carry out an assault, the victim is defenceless and

without immediate access to help".

Operations of this type are far from unique, but rumours passed on by readers that this is a replay of Marylebone Church seam unfounded. This move is part of a regular action that is usually more synonymous with the summer months; the gates are open longer, it's lighter in the evenings and incidents of attacks increase. Similarly a connection with the clearing of Lincoln's Inn Fields, Holborn, should not be made. Conditions became intolerable there due to the size of its population and because of the rats attracted by the food left, but Embankment has a small population by comparison. Westminster Council assured this paper that the problem was not rat driven, and as a matter of course the parks and gardens are baited by exterminators every two weeks to control the rodents.

There is irony in this move, and some do feel that it's a sharpened double-edge sword: Dispersing this population

across the capital, away from the shelter provided by the gardens and the mutual support of numbers surely only serves to make the homeless more vulnerable to attacks. Hawton openly admitted that, "It is really sad because most of them don't want to go and put up a lot of resistance. A few characters make it very difficult for us but they know us well and eventually comply".

For years the nightlife of the people on Embankment has revolved around the parks and gardens and their reluctance to move on is tangible. It is also understandable when the

move to a hostel is usually a gradual one, not arranged in a fortnight, and not everyone wants to move into one.

So, has it worked? Hawton believes it has, "we went back to the gardens last night and the rough sleepers have not returned. To our amazement all we found was a courting couple, so it seems to have worked". When asked about what became of the courting couple she said that they were thrown out immediately, "bye-laws are bye-laws".

'Bez'

What's on in London

In this section we cover important events coming up in the next couple of months:

On the evening of Wednesday 23rd November the first meeting of the London Soup Run Forum will be held at the American Church on Tottenham Court Road. Attended by those who run or fund soup runs, it should mean the improvement to these services as good practice is copied from lead agencies. If you know a soup run, ask if they're coming along, and if not, why not?



"That's your limescale problem sort"

News and Survey

Health report

The homeless should be more involved in cultural and social activities, according to a new report.

The research, commissioned by Westminster Primary Care Trust (PCT) and carried out by the charity Broadway, revealed that social and cultural activities can help improve the lives of people by offering them distraction and relief from drugs and alcohol problems.

"There are many health benefits in running these kind of activities as they help to reduce isolation, promote social networks, and aid and develop self-esteem and communication," said Mark Grant, Broadway director of services.

Grant added that Broadway regularly sees the benefits of such activities within their hostels and day centre, which

have creative-writing classes, music and art groups, plus various clubs such as fishing, gardening and cookery. "These activities give clients a sense of achievement, increase confidence and aid the development of new skills," said Grant. "For those who have mental health problems, they also offer a distraction and help to reduce anxiety and depression."

After gathering feedback from 45 people, as well as doctors and others working with the homeless in Westminster, the report made a few key recommendations. These include better coordination across agencies to ensure that people know where and when these activities are taking place.

Crucially it also suggested that homeless people themselves should be more involved in developing these social and cultural activities.

'Ana'



"I remember being more concerned about free speech"

Contacting us:

It is easy to drop *The Pavement* a line, whether by e-mail or post, and published letters get a t-shirt. Also, if you want to put a message in our Christmas personal column (even if it's only "Merry Xmas, John"), write to us at -

The Pavement
PO Box 43675
London
SE22 8YL

editor@thepavement.org.uk

The first results of our readership survey

Our first readership survey has made your views clear

Keep the letters coming in, but please do put your name on them, even if you wish to remain anonymous. We've received several interesting letters recently that were unsigned and so we couldn't use them (or, importantly send out the t-shirts).

We've had the first few forms back from our readership survey. The forms went out

to many of our stockists, day centre or soup run, and some of the comments are printed here. There're still a lot of forms to come in, but it's encouraging to get some written feedback as opposed to spoken comments and letters.

Comments on *The Pavement*:

"Nothing should be changed; a good read."

"I enjoy it all."

"You say it as it is!"

"Sh*t"

"Doesn't follow the council's view on homelessness."

What you'd like to see in future:

"More views from homeless people."

"Interviews with politicians."

"More information about day centres and nightly soup runs."

"Stop printing it, and use the money for something people want."

"I would like to see an interview with a long term rough sleeper who wants to be out."

"More comments by readers in the news."

What's the worst part of the paper:

"Some of the information is out of date."

"There is no 'worst part' of *The Pavement*."

It's a mixed bag of comments, but mostly positive, and when we've all the results in we'll try to implement readers views. For a start we are trying to set up a few interviews with politicians, as several readers have suggested.

'Ed'

Street life

Books on wheels

The Quaker Mobile Library offers a good read on the streets of London

A good book is an important part of life, and, with the evenings drawing in, finding a well-lit spot and warming yourself in the pages of a novel is more important than ever. But if you're not inclined to buy them on the Charing Cross Road, borrowing them from a library is the best solution, and who better to visit than the Quaker Mobile Library?

Many day centres and hostels keep adequate stocks of books, but they tend to be older titles and lack the dedicated care of a librarian, and some libraries are difficult to borrow from without a permanent address. However, the Quaker Mobile Library offers a good selection of books and the advice of their librarians - even if they are librarian/drivers.



This service began in 1999 when a member of Quaker Homeless Action (QHA) suggested that there was an unmet need for books to be brought to bibliophile rough sleepers. Why not a Mobile Library service? The idea was duly taken up, an old BT van was bought and adapted for the purpose. The project was launched.

The Quaker Mobile Library, now housed in a new van (pictured with its distinctive phoenix motif - the first van caught fire and subsequently rose from the ashes), has proved popular, as seen by the variety of books sought, borrowed and usually returned.

Having sufficient books has not been a problem for the library, and they keep well stocked shelves. A pleasant aspect of the Quaker Mobile Library is the librarians, who are very welcoming and will look out for titles on request.

They are looking to improve the service's frequency, but present times can be found in the service listings (page 11).

'Cobbett'



Cyber advice

Advice services now on the web

Homeless UK is a public access website which computer literate readers may find useful. Although hostel vacancy information is only available to registered users (organisations and not individuals), it still has plenty to offer.

www.homelessuk.org is run and managed by the Resource Information Service. Homeless UK is a source of information on services for the homeless across the UK. It is open

access, is easy to navigate, and has detailed information on over 8,000 hostels and advice/support teams - including information on day centres, housing advice, and training and employment agencies. Online users can do specific searches for services based on their needs giving them accurate information about services relevant to them.

You can also do a search for homelessness related publications and websites.

'Cobbett'

'Digital divide'

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) believes the homeless need to be given broadband

John Prescott's Office produced a report at the start of November that said the use of the internet should be increased amongst the homeless to aid searching for jobs and accommodation. This move is aimed at hostel users only, which are encouraged to connect to broadband.

Unfortunately the scheme has

not gone as far as providing laptops with wifi to rough sleepers, but the ODPM's social exclusion unit believe that having an e-mail address could be the first step to finding a place to live (if you want it).

This move to cross the 'digital divide' has not gone without criticism that it's a cheap fix, but it is backed by Crisis, which is developing a 'virtual life portfolio', which will enable people to store important documents online.

'Hack'

Legal Affairs

Law Lords defy government

Law Lords comment on the number of refugees and asylum seekers adding to the homeless population

The rise of refugees and asylum seekers amongst the homeless has been commented on frequently by rough sleepers and service providers, but now the Law Lords, led by Lord Bingham, have brought to attention the cause of this influx, and at the same time caused embarrassment to the government.

On the 3rd November the government suffered a defeat in the courts on its policy aimed at turning away asylum-seekers and economic migrants. In court the Law Lords backed an Appeal Court decision that action to curb benefit payments to these groups threatened their human rights. They also rejected an attempt by the Home Secretary, Charles Clarke, to overturn that decision.

The policy in question is a recent move by the government in which welfare support is denied to asylum-seekers who do not immediately make a claim after entering the United Kingdom. By this hard-line policy refugees and asylum seekers without cash are forced to rely on charities, and often face life on the streets. Introduced by the previous Home Secretary, David Blunkett, it was felt by some to be in contravention of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Article 3 states that nobody should be subjected to "inhuman or degrading treatment".

Government claims that asylum-seekers having to sleep rough did not breach Article 3 failed to win the day. Although the government's lawyers admitted it was a "hard policy" they

stated that denying support to those who could reasonably have claimed asylum was for "the greater good," only affecting those that failed to make the quick claim. However, saying that the Home Secretary was justified in waiting to see if the people it affected crossed the "threshold of suffering" before giving state aid opened up a can of worms.

The Senior Law Lord, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, countered these arguments by saying that although the responsibility to house the homeless and provide for the poor could not be assumed from the wording of Article 3, "I have no doubt that the threshold may be crossed if a late applicant with no means and no alternative sources of support, unable to support himself, is, by the deliberate action of the state, denied shelter, food or the most basic necessities of life." Lord Bingham followed this statement saying that the Home Secretary has duty of care for an individual who "faces an imminent prospect of serious suffering caused or materially aggravated by denial of shelter, food or the most basic necessities of life."

This challenge to the government was welcomed by Shelter.

Those concerned about the overstretching of homeless day centres and soup runs with the influx of refugees, asylum seekers and economic migrants should welcome this ruling that will ease the pressure on services, especially those unable to offer specialist advice. But how much difference will it make in the long run remains to be seen, and the more cynical readers will look at the numbers, along with the governments past record on these matters, and expect little improvement.

'Humanitarian'

Homeless Hobbies

Back by popular demand - No. 6 : Films

Films are important to some people; Lord Puttnam, Bill Hicks and myself to name a few, but even with the choice of film as large as ever, cinema going is not always easy.

A reader of *The Pavement* recently expressed the opinion that going to the flicks was hampered by the bags that she has, and the lack of places to safely leave them. This being the case, one may use those services that offer film nights. Both ASLAN and the Simon

Community have occasional film nights, but Crisis Skylight's film club is currently awaiting a new DVD player.

If you are determined to see the spectacle on the big screen, and are unimpeded by baggage, you may find the price a deterrent. Certainly West End prices stop regular visits for many, but there are choices. The Prince Charles Cinema, for example, on Leicester Place, off Leicester Square, offers great films at a much reduced price!

'Anorak'



"Careful of that one mate -
She's a bling digger"

Health

Foot Care

After the photographic gore in last issue, the lighter side of feet

Some readers will have the burden of large feet; not a burden because of any impediment to motive skills, but it can prove difficult to find a shoe big enough. But as you scour the shops or day centre stores for larger sizes

reflect on those with a real size problem.

Of course, everything's bigger in the USA.

One of the largest male shoes ever recorded was worn by an American named Harley Davidson (not the motorcycle manufacturer) from Florida. His shoes were an incredible size 42. That would be the equivalent of placing five

shoes, each 8 1/2, end to end. Similarly, Richard Wadlow of Alton, Illinois, had a shoe size that was a modest 37 AA. Another big-footed American was Fanny Mills, a farm girl in Ohio, who died in 1899. She wore a size 22 shoe and made her living by travelling around as a professional 'freak' - "The World's Largest Female Foot." President Abe Lincoln had big feet, and, as most of us have, had one foot longer than the

other. He also had a club foot and needed his shoes to be made for him.

On a serious note; few of us can afford bespoke shoes, but it is important to wear the correct size, so don't be shy if you've big feet, and put the word out that you looking for an extra large pair. It's important.

'Toeslayer'

Dear Flo...

Campaign launched to combat common virus

As promised we're covering hepatitis C this month, because a new NHS campaign is presently under way to increase awareness of this common disease. The 'Face It' campaign was launched in Leicester Square (pictured below) during September.

Hepatitis C (hep C) is a virus that can damage the liver. Unlike hepatitis A and B, there is no vaccine to protect against hepatitis C. Most people who have hep C have no signs or symptoms for many years, but can still pass the virus on to others.

The virus is only spread through contact with the blood of a person who has hep C. You cannot catch it through

everyday contact such as holding hands, hugging, kissing, or sharing a toilet seat, plates, cups and utensils. However, it is passed on or contracted by the following methods:

- Injecting drugs using shared equipment
- If you received a blood transfusion before 1991, or blood products like clotting factors before 1986
- Unprotected sex

- Having a tattoo or piercing with dirty equipment
- If you received medical or dental treatment abroad in countries where hep C is common
- Sharing a razor or toothbrush with someone who may have hep C
- Hep C can also be passed from a mother to her baby, before or during the birth

200,000 people in England are estimated to have hep C and 80% of those will be unaware they have it, but treatments for hep C are getting better, with a drug therapy now available that can cure the infection in about half of the people treated.

Your GP will be able to test you for hep C, as will many drug agencies and all sexual health clinics. For more information call the Hep C information line 0800 451 451, or go online to www.hepc.nhs.uk.

Whilst you're online, why not e-mail me with health related questions at my new address - flo@thepavement.co.uk
Good health,

'Flo'



Soup Runs

Good Soup Guide

No. 4: House of Bread

You may not be familiar with the name, House of Bread, but their run on The Strand (twice a month) is a fixture of life for many. The House of Bread is actually a church, and their soup run activity goes under the name The Vision.

these health-conscious body-beautiful days, the Great British fry-up lives on with the House of Bread. And it is spoken of with a distinct pride by Frank Simon who extols the menu they provide. "We always try to do a proper fried breakfast once a month," he told us, "including eggs, tomatoes, mushrooms, bacon, buttered bread and black pudding."



Established three years ago (the run, not the church), and under the direction of Elder Frank Simon, it shares the Sundays of a month, the other two being covered by a sister church. On the second and fourth Sundays every month House of Bread provide a breakfast for the morning crowds. From around 6.45am they set out their stalls on the north side of The Strand, at the Charing Cross end (near Coutt's Bank).

The basic fair is wholesome and varied, with a minimum of porridge or sandwiches and hot teas and coffees. However, on the second of their monthly excursions, the fourth Sunday of the month, they do things with style. Although often neglected or shunned in

This is achieved with stoves set up for the purpose, although the bacon is pre-cooked (thus losing a few points in this guide), giving them a lead on those runs that rely on hay boxes to keep food warm. There is nothing like fresh-cooked food first-thing, to set you up for the day.

Friendly service goes with the good food, and a supply of clothes is often provided to those in need. They also frequently invite those interested back to their church afterwards, where a wash-up and rest from the rigours of the daily grind are available.

Rating:



SOUP RUNS*

All Souls' Local Action Network (ASLAN) (four slabs)

Sat 5.30-8.30am - Covent Garden, Milford Lane, Surrey Street, Strand, and Waterloo.

Hare Krishna Food for Life

The Hare Krishna food run provides vegetarian meals from Monday to Saturday all year round.

Islip Road (Kentish Town) 12.30pm; Arlington Road (Camden) 1.30pm; York Way (King's Cross) 2.30pm; Lincoln's Inn Fields 7.15pm (Mon, Wed, Thurs); finish at Temple if there's food left.

House of Bread -The Vision (three slabs)

Second and fourth Sunday in the month (6.45am onwards) - Hot food; but a full cooked breakfast only on the fourth Sunday. On the Strand (at the Charing X end, opposite McDonald's, outside Coutt's).

- The first and second Sundays are covered by Jenny from another church, in the same pitch. We'll try to get her details for the next issue.

New Life Assembly

A soup run in Hendon for those not drawn by the bustle of Central London - we'll get details soon, but if anyone knows the times get in touch.

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army tea run (with sandwiches) that used to run down into Victoria has been suspended due to

the duplication of provision on their pitches. They will assess the situation for the future, and are participating with the soup run forum coordinated by Unleash to rectify this.

Sai Baba

Thurs 7.30pm: Lincoln's Inn Fields - Curry

This group provide several food services, both in buildings and on the streets.

Silver Lady Fund (four slabs)

Pies, pasties, and sausage rolls from Mick's van; each day 6.30-6.45am on Upper Ground, next to the Royal Festival Hall.

Simon Community (four slabs)

Tea Run: Sun and Mon (6-9.30am): Hinde Street, Milford Lane, Strand, Exeter Street, Covent Garden, Army and Navy, Waterloo, Lincoln's Inn. Wed and Thurs (8-10.30pm) Milford Lane, Chaplin Walk (Waterloo), Army and Navy, Marylebone Church, Hinde Street.

Street Cafe: Mon (4.30-7.30pm) and Wed (9.30am-1.30pm): St Mary-le-Strand Church (Strand).

Soup Run: Wed and Thurs (8-9.20pm): Hinde Street, Milford Lane, National Theatre, Army and Navy, Howick Place (Victoria).

SW London Vineyard

Sun 2.30-4.30pm beneath Waterloo Bridge (Embankment) - hot stew

*Please note, soup kitchens are listed on page 11.

Services available in London

Alcohol workers – A
Art classes – AC
Benefits advice – B
Barber – BA
Bathroom/showers – BS
Counselling – C
Careers advice – CA

Clothing – CL
Drugs workers – D
Dentist – DT
Education/training – ET
Food – F
Free food – FF
Foot care – FC

Housing advice – H
Internet access – IT
Laundry – L
Luggage stowage – LS
Music classes – MC
Mental health – MH
Medical services – MS

Outreach workers – OB
Outreach worker links – OL
Pavement stockists – P
Sexual health advice – SH
Safe keeping – SK
SSAFA – SS
Tenancy support – TS

We strive to produce the most up-to-date guide to services in London, so if there are any improvements that can be made, or errors present, please contact us (address page 5).

DAY CENTRES

Ace of Clubs (16+)

St Alphonsus Rd, Clapham
020 7622 3196
Sun, Mon, Tues: 2pm-6pm;
Wed, Thurs: 12 noon-2pm; Fri,
Sat: 12 noon-6pm
BS, DT, F, FC, H, IT, L, MS, OB

Acton Homeless Concern

Emmaus House,
1 Berrymead Gardens, Acton
Call for opening times:
020 8992 5768
A, B, BA, CL, D, DT, ET, F, FC

Aldgate Advice Centre

Aldgate High Street, Aldgate
020 7283 1950
Mon-Fri: 9.15am-11.30am
for rough sleepers; 1.30pm-
3.30pm: appointments and
activities; Fri: 3pm-4pm for
rough sleepers
A, B, BS, CL, D, ET, F, H, L, MH, MS, P

Broadway Day Centre

Market Lane, Shepherds Bush
020 8735 5810
Mon-Fri: 9.30am-2.30pm
(drop-in); 8.30am-4.30pm
(breakfast for rough sleepers)
CL, ET, F, FC, H, MS, P

Choral Hall Lifeskills Centre

310 Barking Road, Plaistow
020 7511 8377
Mon-Fri: 10am-2pm
A, B, BS, C, CL, D, F, FC, L, MS

Cricklewood Homeless Concern

60 Ashford Road, Cricklewood
020 8208 1608
Housing drop-in: Mon, Wed,
Fri: 10am-11am (for advice
please be at front door at 9am
for ticket). Day services: Mon,
Wed, Fri: 10am-3.30pm (10am-
12.30pm for advice; 1pm-
3.30pm basic services)
AC, B, BS, H, IT, L, MS, OL

Crisis Skylight

66 Commercial Street, E1
020 7426 5661
Mon-Thurs 2pm-9.30pm
AC, ET, IT, P
•This listing in no way does
justice to the number of
activities they have running
– for a full list visit www.crisis.org.uk and look under 'Projects
and Services'.

Dellow Day Centre

see 'Aldgate Advice Centre'

Deptford Churches Centre

Speedwell Street, Deptford
020 8692 6548
Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri:
9am - 3.30 pm
BS, ET, F, H, L

Finsbury Park

Street Drinkers Initiative
91 Tollington Way
020 7263 4140
Mon-Thurs: 8.30am-3pm
A, BS, D, F, H, L, OL

Hanbury Community Project (S.C.T.)

22a Hanbury Street,
Spitalfields, E1
020 7377 2497
Wed -Thurs 10.00am-4.00pm
AC, B, C, ET, IT, P

Holy Cross Centre

The Crypt, Holy Cross Church,

Cromer Street, WC1

020 7278 8687

Mon: 2pm-5pm;

Tues: 6.30pm-9pm

FF, H, MH

• They are presently running
an open access session on
Mon and Tues from 2 to
5pm at the United Reformed
Church, whose entrance is
on Wakefield Street. Regular
members may attend on
Monday as they will be
running outings during this
period.

London City Mission

Waterloo Christian Centre,
628 Webber Street, SE1
020 7928 1677
Mon-Fri: 9am-12noon
B, BA, BS, CL, FF, H

Manna Day Centre

6 Melior Street, SE1
020 7403 1931

Mon-Sun: 8.30am-1.30pm

B, BS, CL, DT, FF, FC, H, MH, MS, P

North Lambeth Day Centre (St Mungo's)

St John's Crypt,
73 Waterloo Road, Lambeth
020 7261 9622

•Presently closed whilst it
undergoes building work (due
to be completed in December
this year). They are, however,
running from an office for
those working with staff based
there, and still operating out-
reach workers.

North London Action for the Homeless (NLAH)

Church Hall,
24-30 Bouverie Road, N16
020 8802 1600
Tue: 12pm-1.30pm (drop-in);
Thurs 7-8.30pm
B, BS, CL, FF, P



"It's about this device you sent me for
removing nasal hair..."

Rochester Row Day Centre

97 Rochester Row, SW1
020 7233 9862
Mon and Fri: 5.30pm-8pm
(appointments only); Tues
2pm-4.30pm (art workshop);
Wed and Thurs: 5.30pm-8pm
(drop-in session); Thurs 1pm-
5pm (Benefits); Thurs and Fri
2pm-4pm (English classes)
AC, B, BS, CL, ET, FF, P

Shoreditch Community Project (S.C.T.)

St Leonard's Church,
Shoreditch High Street, E1
020 7613 3232
Mon, Wed, Fri: 9.30am-
12.30pm; Tues: 2.00pm-
4.00pm
FF, B, OL, P

Simon Community

House of Hospitality, 129
Malden Road, Kentish Town
Mon-Fri: 9am-5.30pm

Spectrum Centre

6 Greenland Street, NW1
020 7267 4937
Mon: 10am-12pm (advice),
2pm-4pm (drop-in); Tues:
10am-12pm (advice),
2pm-4pm (women only); Wed:
2pm-4pm (advice); Thurs:
10am-2pm (advice);
Fri: 10am-2pm (advice); 2pm-
4pm (advice)
**A, BS, C, CL, D, FC, H, L, LS,
MH, MS, TS**

Spires Centre

8 Tooting Bec Gardens
020 8696 0943
Tues and Thurs: 9-10.30am
(rough sleepers only),
10.30am-2pm (drop in); Wed:
10am-12pm (rough sleepers),
10am-1pm (adult learning
centre); Fri: 10am-1pm
(women only); Sun: 11.30am-
3pm (drop-in)
A, B, CL, D, ET, F, FC, H, MS, P

Spitalfield's Crypt Trust

see Hanbury and Shoreditch
Community Projects

St Christopher's Fellowship

Lime Grove Resource Centre,
47 Lime Grove, W12
Please call for opening times:
020 8740 9182
AC, BS, CA, ET, FC, IT, L, MS

St Cuthbert's Centre

The Philbeach Hall,
51 Philbeach Gdns, Earls Court
020 7835 1389
Mon-Fri: 11.30pm-3.45pm
AC, BS, C, CL, F, H, IT, L, OL, P

St Giles Trust

64-68 Camberwell Church St,
SE5
020 7703 7000
Mon-Fri: 9.30am-12.30pm
(advice/no drop-in)
**A, B, BS, D, ET, H, L, MH, MS,
P, TS**

St John's at Hackney

Community Space Centre,
Lower Clapton Road, E5
020 8985 6707
Mon-Thurs: 10am-12.30pm;
2pm-4.30pm; Wed: 10am-
12.30pm
B, BS, CL, ET, F, H, IT, MS

St Stephen's Church/The Manna

17 Canonbury Rd, N1 2DF
020 7226 5369
Tues: 7pm-9pm (drop-in);
Weds: 1-3pm (drop-in with B
and FC); Fri: 10am-1pm (drop-
in)
BS, CL, FC, FF, L, P

The Connection at St Martin's (Social Care Unit)

12 Adelaide Street, WC2
020 7766 5544
Daily 9am-12.30pm drop-in
with some afternoon sessions.
On the weekends the service
is mixed (16+) from 9am-1pm
(no entry after 10.30). There
are also drop-in sessions
on Tues and Thurs 4.30pm-
7.30pm (26+ only).
Social Care Unit (age 26+)
**A, AC, B, BS, CA, CL, D, ET, F,
H, IT, MC, MH, MS, P, SK, SS**
No. 12 (age 16-25)
**A, AC, BS, CA, CL, D, ET, F, H,
IT, L, MC, MH, MS, SK, SS, TS**
* Due to all move into No.12 in
the next month.

The Passage (25+)

St Vincent's Centre,
Carlisle Place, SW1P
020 7592 1850
Mon-Fri: 7am-11am for rough
sleepers. Appointments only
beyond this time
A, B, CA, CL, D, ET, F, FC, H,

IT, L, MH, MS, P, TS**Upper Room, St Saviour's**

Cobbold Road, W12
020 8740 5688
Mon-Thur: 5.30pm-6.45pm;
Tue: 9.30am-11.45am; Sat-Sun:
12.30 pm-1.30pm
A, BA, C, CA, D, ET, FC, FF, H

West London Day Centre

134-136 Seymour Place, W1H
020 7569 5900
Mon-Fri: 8.45am-10.30am for
rough sleepers only; 2pm-4pm
(drop in) with TS and light
refreshments
**AC, B, BS, C, CL, F, IT, L, LS,
MS, OL, P, SK, TS**

Whitechapel Mission

212 Whitechapel Road, E1
020 7247 8280
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun:
6am-11am (cooked breakfast)
BS, CL, FF, MS, OL

SOUP KITCHENS**American Church**

(entrance in Whitefield Street)
79a Tottenham Court Rd, W1T
020 7580 2791
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 10am-
12pm. Serving hot meals, soup
and bread, and/or sandwiches

ASLAN

All Souls Church -Clubhouse
Langham Place, W1
020 7580 3522
Sat: by invitation

MEDICAL SERVICES**Great Chapel St Medical Centre**

13 Great Chapel Street, W1
020 7437 9360
Mon-Fri: 2pm-4pm; Mon, Tues,
Thurs: 11am-12.30pm
**A, B, C, D, DT, FC, H, MH, MS,
P, SH**

Dr. Hickey's: Cardinal Hume Centre

Arneway Street, SW1
020 72228593
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 10am-
12.30pm & 2pm-4pm.
Wed: 10am-12.30pm
**A, B, C, D, DT, FC, H, MH, MS,
P, SH**

King's Cross Primary Care Centre

264 Pentonville Rd, N1
For opening times, call
020 7530 3444
**B, BS, CL, DT, FC, H, MH, MS,
P, SH**

SPECIAL SERVICES**Quaker Mobile Library**

Mon (every second): North
Lambeth Day Centre
(Waterloo), The Christian
Centre in Webber St (behind
the Old Vic), and The Manna
Centre (the busiest stop).
Sat (every): am, The Passage
and St Martin's.

ADVICE SERVICES**Borderline (Scottish)**

7-9 Belgrave Road
London
SW1V 1QB
0845 456 2344 (advice line)
Mon-Fri: 9.30 - 10.30am (drop-
in advice service); 9.30am-
4.30am (appointments)
Closed Wed pm
A, B, C, CL, D, H, MH, P

EX-FORCES

SSAFA Forces Help are
listed above as SS.

Ex-Service Fellowship Centre

40 Buckingham Palace Road,
Victoria offer an excellent
service. Tel: 020 7828 2468.

AWOL? Call the 'reclaim your
life' scheme on 01380 738137
(9am-10am Mon-Fri).

TELEPHONE SERVICES**Shelter, housing info and advice:**

0808 800 44 44
(every day, 8am-12am)

Saneline: 0845 767 8000

Message Home Helpline:

0800 700 740 (24 hrs.)
Get Connected: 0808 808 4994.
Free advice for young people
(1pm-7pm, 7 days)

National Debtline:

0808 808 4000



"You know what I'd like? VAT problems"

We're still looking for a supplier of crosswords, for those readers who need their fix of puzzles with a paper, and we hope to have a professional compiler onboard soon.

Meanwhile, below find a su doku, the samurai puzzles. If you've never tried a su doku before the rules are simple:

The objective is to enter numbers from 1 through 9 in each cell so that each digit appears once in every horizontal row and vertical column. Each digit must only be used once in each 3X3 box. This puzzle has only one solution.

Su Doku

		3	1		4			
9		1						6
7	4			5			9	3
2		6	9		5	8		4
	5	7						
1		4	7		3	5		2
6	1			7			4	5
3	7							8
			8		6			

LORECA launched

A new service to help refugees into employment has started in the capital

London Refugee Economic Action (LORECA), a pan-London project that helps refugees to enter employment, training and enterprise, was launched on 12th October at the Design Museum, which brought together 115 representatives from government, employers, professional associations, trade unions and refugee community organisations.

LORECA operates through a partnership comprised of: Off the Streets and into Work (the leadpartner-OSW), the Refugee Council, Refugee Women's Association, UK NARIC, and Resource Information Service (associate partner).

Andy Burnham MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State with responsibility for refugee integration, delivered the keynote address, stating "The Home Office is committed to facilitating the economic integration of refugees in London and around the UK. I wish LORECA every success in bringing coordination and strategic leadership to the many organisations concerned with the employability of refugees in London."

To find out more about LORECA, and how it can help you, go to www.loreca.org.uk

'Cobbett'

MISSING



Lesley Pickavance

Lesley Anne Pickavance, who is originally from Bedford, last had contact with her family in 1990. Although she has not been seen or heard from since then, it is believed that in March 2000 Lesley was living in London, probably sleeping rough. Her family is anxious for news of Lesley's wellbeing and whereabouts. Your Mum Dad and family would like you to know, "We miss you and would love to know that you are safe and well". Now nearly 49, Lesley is 5ft 2in tall and has brown eyes. When she was last seen, Lesley was slim with dark brown shoulder-length, straight hair.

If you have seen Lesley, or have news of her whereabouts, please call the National Missing Persons Helpline on 0500 700 700. Alternatively you can e-mail sightings@missingpersons.org.

The National Missing Persons Helpline offer strict confidentiality with all their calls. Under 18s can call their Runaway Helpline free on 0808 800 70 70. Over 18s can call the Message Home Helpline listed on the previous page.

Please note, *The Pavement* is written for your entertainment and information. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the publication, *The Pavement* cannot be held responsible for the use of the information it publishes. The contents should not be relied upon as a substitute for medical, legal or professional advice.

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